

POLICY AND LIAISON REVIEW

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JUNE/JULY LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

<i>Last day for bills to be passed out of house of origin</i>	June 6th
<i>Budget Bill must be passed by mid-</i>	June 15th
<i>Sen. Educ. Committee has a bill hearing on AB 547</i>	July 2nd
<i>Summer recess begins if budget bill has been en-</i>	July 18th

HIGHLIGHTS



RELEVANT BILLS

The Office of Policy and Liaison continues to track over 21 bills that are California National Guard or military-related. Policy and Liaison staff members continue to provide bill analysis to the Governor's Office. In addition, we continue to gather technical information for legislative committees and staff, as well as attend and testify at bill hearings. Below are some of the bills we are working; for a complete list of state bills we are tracking, please contact Policy and Liaison.

on May 8, 2003; to Assembly. Referred to Assembly Veterans' Affairs Committee – hearing scheduled for July 1, 2003.

AB 547 (Liu, Maddox, Parra) **Public postsecondary education: tuition & fee waivers for National Guard & State Military Reserve** - (*This bill replaces AB 307 - endorsed by NGAC) Would establish the California National Guard Postsecondary State Tuition Benefits program; benefits include fee waivers for community colleges & 75% reduction for State Universities & College tuition costs.

Status: Passed the Assembly Floor June 4, 2003; to Senate. Referred to Senate Education Committee - hearing scheduled for July 2, 2003.



AB 1736 (Assembly Committee on Veterans' Affairs) **Veterans: Cal Vet loans** - Would expand the Cal Vet Home Loan program & authorize the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs to waive the initial payment for a purchase & would authorize expenditure of funds from the Veterans' Farm & Home Building Fund to provide financial assistance to lower-income, 1st time buyers in the form of a deferred-payment 2nd loan.

Status: Passed the Assembly Floor May 29, 2003; to Senate for first reading and committee referral.

STATE:

SB 73 (Alpert) **National Guard (Non-appropriated funds activities)** - (*Sponsored by the Military Department) Would permit The Adjutant General/Military Department to adopt rules and regulations for the establishment of maintenance and deposits to fund accounts for the support of morale, welfare and recreational activities benefiting National Guard soldiers and airmen.

Status: Passed the Senate floor

AB 1116 (Battin) **Vehicles: special license plates: California National Guard** - Would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special recognition license plates to current or retired members of the California National Guard; would cost \$50.

Status: Passed Assembly floor May 8, 2003; to Senate for first reading

JUNE / JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Happy B-Day TAG</i>	<i>Jun 3rd</i>
<i>163rd AW returns from Iraq</i>	<i>Jun 4th</i>
<i>Gov. Davis to welcome home troops at Los Alamitos</i>	<i>Jun 5th</i>
<i>Rep. Napolitano to visit Angel Gate</i>	<i>Jun 7th</i>
<i>Gov. Davis signed ESGR Statement of Support</i>	<i>Jun 20th</i>
<i>Homeland Sec. Summit hosted by Congress member Dana Rohrabacher in Orange County</i>	<i>Jun 30th</i>
<i>"All Volunteer Army Day"-Sacto. MEPS will be holding a ceremony to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of our All-Volunteer Forces</i>	<i>Jul 1st</i>
<i>Lt. Gov. Bustamante to pay tribute to fallen soldiers and their families in L.A.</i>	<i>Jul 3rd</i>

Legislative fact:

A bill becomes law January 1st of the following year unless it contains an urgency clause (takes effect immediately) or specifies its own effective date.

California National Guard

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and committee referral.

AB 542 (Dutra) *Escheated property: military artifacts* - Would amend Civil Procedure Code 1563 to expand the types of property the Comptroller may provide to the California State Military Museum (amended from California National Guard Museum) to be held in trust.

Status: Passed Assembly floor May 8, 2003; to Senate. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee - hearing was scheduled for June 24, 2003, but has been postponed.

SB 259 (Romero) *School and community college employees: call to active military duty* - Would authorize employees of a school district or community college, who as members of the California National Guard or reserves are called to active duty, to be eligible to receive the difference between military pay and allowances and the amount the employee would have received as a school/college employee for up to 180 days.

Status: Passed Senate floor May 12, 2003; to Assembly. Passed Assembly Education Committee June 11, 2003. Referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee - hearing was scheduled for June 24, 2003, but has been postponed.

AB 1416 (Vargas) *Dependents of veterans: CA State Freedom Endowment* - Would create the CA State Freedom Endowment Fund under the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to provide funding for education & health care expenses for surviving dependent children; would allow taxpayers to designate on their tax returns donations for the fund.

Status: Passed Assembly floor June 2, 2003; to Senate. Referred to Senate Veterans' Affairs and Revenue and Taxation Committees. Senate Veterans' Affairs hearing scheduled for July 8, 2003.

AB 214 (S. Horton) *Taxpayer contributions: Veterans' Quality of Life Fund* -

Would allow taxpayers to designate on their tax returns a specified amount to be transferred to the Veterans' Quality of Life Fund, which would be created by this legislation.

Status: Passed Assembly floor May 22, 2003; to Senate. Referred to Senate Veterans' Affairs and Revenue and Taxation Committees. Senate Veterans' Affairs hearing scheduled for July 8, 2003.

SB 716 (Battin) *State militia: armories: lease revenue bonds* -

Would authorize the Department of General Services to issue lease-revenue bonds for the purpose of funding maintenance and improvement of California National Guard armories that are used as emergency shelters.

Status: This bill will not move forward this year, but will become a 2-year bill.

SB 948 (Morrow) *Personal income tax: exemption: spouse of the member of the Armed Forces of the U.S.* -

Would exclude the income of a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces from computation of CA personal income tax for the taxable year in which the military member dies as a result of military, combat, or terrorist action while in active service, and also extends this exclusion for three following tax years for the surviving spouse.

Status: Held Under Submission by Senate Appropriations Cmtee - bill will not move forward this year.

FEDERAL:

S. 215 "Guard Act of 2003"

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.

S. 1035 "To amend title 10 USC, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55"

Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on

Armed Services. The House version, **H.R. 742**, has been referred to the House Committee on Armed Services-Total Force Subcommittee.

S. 990 "A bill to amend title 32 USC, to increase the maximum federal share of the costs of state programs under the National Guard Challenge Program, and for other purposes"

Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

S. 852 "National Guard and Reserve Comprehensive Health Benefits Act of 2003"

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. The House version, **H.R. 2176**, was referred to the House Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.



EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)

Staff Sgt. Kenneth White talks about the experiences of an F-15 Eagle with his civilian supervisor, John Blanton, during an ESGR "Briefing with the breed" program.

Governor Gray Davis has signed a letter of support for the California Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve which is a clear message to all California National Guard Soldiers and Airman that while they serve their country, they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs. The

statement signed by the Governor is a public pledge to support Guard and Reserve members and follow the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

This office and members of the State ESGR Committee are providing briefings to soldiers and their family members on their reemployment rights and obligations prior to deployment.

All reserve personnel should review the **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)** to be aware of their obligations, as well as their employer's obligations when soldiers are notified of pending deployment or mobilization. A copy of USERRA can be found on the ESGR web site, www.esgr.org or by calling the Policy and Liaison Office.



LEGISLATIVE INQUIRIES (FEDERAL AND STATE)

For calendar year 2003, 183 Legislative Inquiries have been received. 24 of those cases are currently open.

P&L STAFF KUDOS KORNER

~ Job well done to SMSgt Barboa, at a recent event acknowledging our Family Support Coordinators, he played an instrumental part in planning, organizing and coordinating a wonderful catered luncheon held on the lawn of our state Capitol and sponsored by Assemblywoman Nicole M. Parra of the 30th Assembly District.

~ Congratulations to MSG Gregson, she has made it to the finish line and will be celebrating her retirement on June 30th, 2003.

~Welcome back to LTC Baldwin, our new graduate of the Army War College. He will return home to P&L on June 26th. He has been missed.



ESGR Representative, SGM Larry Ellsworth

ASSEMBLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Greetings from
Nicole M. Parra
30th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Parra is a supporter of the California National Guard and those issues that affect this organization. She is the Chairwoman of the Assembly Veteran Affairs Committee. She has shown her dedication to the cause of the military through her participation in events that recognize those members that comprise our organization. On March 19, 2003 she participated, with Governor Gray Davis, in a farewell event for the soldiers of the 270th Military Police Company that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Again, her support was demonstrated on May 23, 2003 as she sponsored a luncheon on the lawn of the State Capitol to pay tribute to the Family Support Coordinator (FSC), those members that act as liaison, financial advisor, and front line defense to those families that endure separation from their soldier and airmen.

The Military Department appreciates her efforts and salute her.

WEB RESOURCES:

- ◆ WWW.CALGUARD.CA.GOV/CAPL/
- ◆ WWW.LEGINFO.CA.GOV/
- ◆ WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/
- ◆ WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/
- ◆ WWW.ESGR.ORG/
- ◆ WWW.OSC.GOV/USERRA.HTM
- ◆ WWW.DOL.GOV/ELAWS/USERRA0.HTM
- ◆ WWW.NGAC.ORG
- ◆ WWW.NGAUS.ORG
- ◆ THOMAS.LOC.GOV/
- ◆ WWW.HOUSE.GOV/WRITEREP/

EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM



The Emergency Shelter Program had 16 locations in 10 counties open. Armories being used this year were Culver City, Escondido, Fullerton, Gilroy, Glendale, Indio, Merced, Pomona, Riverside, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Santa Rosa, Sunnyvale, Sylmar and Ventura. All facilities closed effective 15 April 2003. The armories were open a total of 1,705 nights and provided shelter for 145,839 males, 31,820 females and 2,959 children for a total of 180,618 homeless Californians.



What was said:

"We've accomplished a lot...But it's through the combined efforts of a staff of 10 and the support of key directorates."

*-LTC Alberts, Dir. P&L
Grizzly December 2002*

Director's Corner



The California National Guard, Office of Policy and Liaison has the mission of working with our State Legislators and California Congressional Delegation. A primary responsibility is identifying and working state legislative issues for California's Army and Air National Guard.

Policy and Liaison works with the Governor's Office, Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst's Office and Assembly and Senate Budget Committee members to demonstrate the Military Department's fiscal needs. With ongoing relations and daily contact Legislative departments and entities are provided data to substantiate the purpose of those issues that affect the California Guardsmen. The results of this ongoing relationship have dramatically boosted the Military Department's budget, witnessed the passing of significant bills, and even added programs.

In addition to obtaining additional resources through the support of elected officials, this office participates in special events and projects. These events include escorting state and federal legislators to Guard-sponsored events, coordinating Legislator sponsored events, and coordinating "Legislator Lifts".

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

COLONEL KEN STILLEY

COL Stilley serves as Policy and Liaison's federal Legislative Liaison Officer with the Washington D.C. office of Governor Gray Davis. He petitions on behalf of the CNG to Congress, NGB, and other federal agencies on issues affecting the CNG, both ARNG and ANG.

- ◆ Implements TAG's annual federal legislative program
- ◆ Meets with the staff of the Congressional Delegation and their staffs to educate them about issues concerning the California National Guard
- ◆ Address questions and concerns that Legislators may have
- ◆ Meets with NGAUS, NGB, OSD, National Governor's Assoc., Governor Davis' DC staff, Dept. of Homeland Security, defense contractors and non-governmental organization to advance the California National Guard legislative agenda
- ◆ Serves as the California National Guard's "person on the ground" to coordinate operational issues with NGB (ARNG, ANG, and Joint), DHS, other activities in the Washington DC area.

He can be reached via the following:

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL TOM LASSER

LTC Lasser serves as the Policy and Liaison's state Legislative Liaison Officer with the Los Angeles office of Governor Gray Davis. He has commanded at the company and battalion level and served in a variety of staff positions including Headquarters, California National Guard.

- ◆ Aid in developing CNG legislative plan
- ◆ Drafts technical legislation and amendments of proposed or active bills
- ◆ Prepares executive correspondence and information papers on policy and fiscal issues for the Governor's Office, Legislature, and Congress
- ◆ Acts as liaison between the CNG and elected local and state official in the Southern California region
- ◆ Plans, develops, implements, and evaluates the Military Department's community relation programs
- ◆ Represents the Governor's office through Southern California in military related events.

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